controlling locust in the cultivated areas in the Districts of Ajmer, Alwar, Bhil-wara, Chittorgarh, Jaipur, Jalore, Jodh-pur,. Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sawai Madhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Srj Ganganagar and Uaipur.

(b) Six high level Indo-Pakistan Bild-teral Meetings have been held since 1975. The last meeting was held at Islamabad on 8-9 June, 1988. Keeping *in* view the seriousness of locust situation, frequency of border mestings was increased and during the period from June to November, 1993, ten border meetings of the Indo-Pakistan locust officers were held to discuss locust situation and control operations in both the countries,

The following international assistance has been received through FAO so far:—

(i) 15 High Frequency (HF) Radie Sets.

(ii) 20.2 MT of fenitrothion ULV.

(iii) 100 hand held battery operated MICRO-ULVA sprayers.

(iv) 8ULVA-MAST, Vehicle mounted sprayers.

Revision of price of dried coconut

2080. SHE SHIV PRATAP MISH-,RA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE, be pleased to state:

• -(a) .whether it is a fact that Govern-- ment propose to revise the support. price of- dried coconut fixed, in 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not,- the reasons therefor?

" THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY' OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The ' Government has already fixed the mini- mnm support price of milling copra at ' Rs 2150 per" qutl.' and that* of ball at it Rs. 2350-per quintal for 1993 seasons.

**Harmful effets of pesticide**

2081. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAE MODY: Will the Minister of AGRICUL TURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are awar. that farmers in Egypt, China, Malaysia South Pacific, Islands, Cosra Rica, Brazi Holland, Sweden and Texas have slashes pestiide use and are harvesting greate yields than before;

(b) whether Government propose advise the Indian farmers to cut pesticide use by 50 percent to save cost and in crease prooduction, as the use of pesti cide is proving harmful; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and th reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONA1 ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINI STER OF STATE JIN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRESH NA KUMAR): (a) The adoption of In tegrated Pest Management approach ha enabled the farmers to reduce the cons umption of chemical pesticides in man' countries.

(b) and (c) In order to minimise th use of chemical pesticides the Govern ment is promoting Integrated Pest Mina gement technology wherein it is advocat ed that chemiccal pesticides should b used as a last resert on the basis o economic threshold level of pests.

**Policy on agricultural mechanisation**

2082. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: W the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pie sed to state:

(a) whether Government have consi luted a Committee to draft a policy oi agricultural mechanisation; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that mrely tnree percent of the American popution i.e. about seven million people arc engaged in agriculture as compad to about 500 million in India;

(c) whether it is a fact that the (wo countries produce probably an cqual amount of foodgrains if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering scheme to pesticide use and are harvesting greater areas *of* work to lessen the burden of land: if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SHRI3 S. KRISHNA KUMAR): fa) Yes. Sir. A State-.men, giving details of the Committee is annexed. *(See* below).

(b) Available statistics indicate that in 1992, about 2.42 per cent of the total American population was engaged in agrieuiture as compared to about 545.93 million in India.

(c) Foodgrains production in USA, during 19192, was 346.90 million metric onnes whsreas. in India, it was 175.93 million metric tonnes. Large holdings, high degree of mechanisation, favourable agro climatic conditions and extensive use of quality inputs are the main reasons for hihger productivity.

(d) No. Sir.

**Statement**

(a) The composition of the Committee is as under :—

| | |
|---|---|
| (i) Joint Secretary (Incharge Machinery) Dept. of Agri. & Coopn. | Chairman |
| (ii) Deputy Director General (Engineering) I.C.A.R.. Krishi Bhavan | Member |
| (iii) Head, Agrilultural Engineering | Member |
| (a) Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana | Member |
| (b) Tamil Nadu Agricultral Univeristy, Coimbatore | Member |
| (iv) Director/Joint Director, Agricultural Engineering, Orissa, Maharashtra*JJ* | Member |
| (v) Eminent person in the field of Agricultural Engineering, Shri D.N. Kherdekar, Nagpur | Member |
| (vi) Director, Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal | Member |
| (vii) Representative of Ministry of Water Resources (Minor Irrigation Division) | Member |
| (viii) Representative of Development Commissioner, (Small Scale Industry) | Member |
| (ix) Agriculture Commissioner. Deptt. of A & C | Member |
| (x) Horticulture Commissioner, Deptt. of A & C | Member |
| (xi) Addl. Commissioner (Soil & Water Conservation) Deptt. of Agri. & Coopn. | Member |
| | Member |
| (xii) Joint Commissioner (Machinery) Deptt. of Agri. & Coopn. | Secretary |

The terms of reference of the Committee are as under :—

(a) The status of the current usage of agricultural machinery in the states, problems in adoption of improved implements and mak.e recommendation for making more efficient and economic use of the same;

(b) The status of agricultural engineering input with regard to usage of grotind water conservation of soil, soil moisture and soil fertility and measures to "farther 'imprve the engineering input on these aspects;

(c) The status of utilisation of the renewable resources of energy such as biogas, bioaiass, solar energy and animal energy etc in agricultural and rural sector;

(d) Manufacture and supply position of agricultural implements, constraints etc;

(e) Incentives given to the farmers procurement of farm equipment and other devices;

(f) Impact of mechanisation on produetivity, rural income and Neinploy-ment; and ,

(g) Status of development of labour saving devices for farm women.

**Drought In Uttar Pradesh**

2083. OR. NAUNHlAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased- to state:

(a) whetner it is a fact that a drought like condition prevailed in more than half of the 63 districts in Uttar Pra desh due to scanty rainfall in July this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the worst-hit districts were in the Central and Eastern parts of the Stete;
Central and Eastern parts of the State;

(d) if so details thereof; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to cope up with the situa-tion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NET AM): (a) and (b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh had declared 40 districts as drought affected These districts had received a commu-lative rainfall of less than 60 per ceni of the normal rainfall in the month of July and upto 15th August. 1993.

(c) and (d) The Worst affected districts were Lucknow Hardoi, Raebareilly Kfc-npurdehat and Unnao in central Uttai Pradesn and Sultanpur, Mirzapiir, Vara nasi, Allahabad, Pratapgarh, Fatehpur anc Sonbhadra in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

(e) The steps taken by the Govern ment of Uttar Pradesh to cope up wit! the situation included the following:—

(1) Suspension of realisation of lane revenue, irrigation dues etc., til 31st October, 1993;

(2) Creation of 296.69 lakn manday: at a cost of Rs. 118.01 crores under employment generation programmes;

(3) Installation of handpumps and provision of maximum irrigation facilities to standing crops.

(4) Ensuring availability of essentia commodities and diesel through Public Distribution System.

(5) Ensuring availability of , Fodde and drinking water facilities to cattle and prevention of cattle diseases;

(6) Distribution of free ration an< dhoties to destitutes;

(7) Distribution of gratuitous relie and distress taqavi in critical areas

**Help sought by Chief Minister Maharashtra for Earthquake rslief**

2084. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMV

Will the Minister of AGR1CULTUR] be pleased to state: